



Preschool Development Grants

Expansion Grants

GRANTEE ABSTRACT

Vermont

Overview

The state of Vermont requests \$7,231,681 in Preschool Development Grants Expansion Grant (PDG-Expansion) first year funds for the Vermont PDG-Expansion Initiative (the Program or Project), an ambitious but achievable plan including 498 new pre-kindergarten slots and improving 795 existing slots for low-income four-year-olds in the first year of funding. These 1,293 pre-kindergarten slots represents an expansion of access to a total of 49.90% of Vermont's eligible four-year-olds. By the end of the fourth year of funding, this number will rise to 1,818 or 70.17% of eligible four year-olds state wide.

Project Objectives and Activities

The portion of funds for administrative purposes (5%) will be used to hire Program and Fiscal Managers who will manage the PDG-Expansion implementation statewide; to fund a contract for external program evaluation; and limited expenses relating to travel and equipment.

The Grant Coordinator (who will serve as the program manager) will also provide technical assistance to subgrantees and facilitate and support a Professional Learning Community to enable subgrantees to share best practices, collaborate on training and professional development and support each other in developing high-quality preschool programs. This specific assistance was requested by the

Lead Agency

Vermont Agency of Education

Year 1 Federal Award Amount

\$7,231,681

Plan Period

January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

Preschool Development Grants will support states to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families.

There are two types of grants.

Development Grants are for states that currently serve less than 10 percent of four-year-olds and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant.

Expansion Grants are for states that currently serve 10 percent or more of four-year-olds or have received an RTT-ELC grant.

subgrantees during the proposal development process. The Fiscal Manager will provide technical assistance to subgrantees to properly braid various funding streams to enhance the sustainability of their pre-kindergarten programs.

Private philanthropic dollars - part of Vermont's 58% match of requested funds – will support mentoring to increase the number of licensed early education teachers in Vermont.

Vermont has defined “high-needs communities” as Supervisory Unions (SUs) and Supervisory

Districts (SDs) (LEAs) that have 25% or more of their children at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). A total of 33 subgrantees (all seven of Vermont's Head Start programs and 26 of Vermont's Supervisory Unions and Districts) in approximately 150 high needs communities statewide have formally agreed to participate. Thus, Vermont's PDG Expansion project will have statewide reach.

Project Outcomes

Proposed Program outcomes will target children, families, and high-quality preschool programs.

Vermont has demonstrated a strong and enduring commitment to the early learning and development of young children and a record of accomplishment in providing high-quality early learning programs, and other programs and services, for children from birth to age five. Yet, work remains to be done. Vermont ranks high in access but does not fully achieve the quality defined as high quality preschool programs (HQPP), and that quality varies across individual programs in a mixed delivery model. Act 166, Vermont's universal pre-kindergarten legislation, has been enacted but is primarily focused on access and equity. With universal voluntary access achieved, increasing quality and dosage in the state preschool program for four-year-olds under 200% FPL will be significantly accelerated with the resources requested in this proposal. This will help to close the achievement gap for poor children.

High Need Communities to be served under Vermont's Plan

**Bennington County Head Start
Capstone Head Start
Champlain Valley Head Start
Early Education Services
NEKCA Head Start
Rutland County Head Start
SEVCA/Windsor County
Addison Central SU
Addison Northeast SU
Addison Northwest SU
Bennington-Rutland SU
Burlington SD
Chittenden East SU
Essex North SU
Franklin Central SU
Franklin Northwest SU
Lamoille South SU
Milton Town SD
Orange North SU
Orange Southwest SU
Orange Windsor SU
Pivendell SD
Rutland Central SU
Rutland Northeast SU
Southwest Vermont SU
Springfield SD
St. Johnsbury SD
Two rivers SU
Windham Central SU
Windham Southeast SU
Windsor Northwest SU
Windsor Southeast SU
Winooski SD**